



HOLLYWOOD CASINO WILL TEAM WITH LOCAL COLLEGES, ORGANIZATIONS TO TRAIN MAJORITY OF ITS EMPLOYEES

-- Columbus State, Central Ohio Tech, Hondros College and COWIC will be involved in developing and training casino workforce --

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 25, 2012 – Hollywood Casino Columbus today announced an unprecedented agreement with three Central Ohio colleges and the Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation (COWIC) to train approximately 1,200 of its anticipated 2,000 employees.

Ameet Patel, general manager of the casino now under construction on Columbus' West Side, said the casino will team with:

- Columbus State Community College for culinary training for its food service operations;
- Hondros College to train prospective table-games dealers; and
- Central Ohio Technical College to train prospective employees for a variety of non-gaming positions, including technicians, casino cage employees, safety personnel and first responders, and others.

In addition, COWIC will work with all three colleges to help identify and provide qualified applicants for a full range of casino positions.

“Our goal in establishing training programs has been to take advantage of the vast resources available in Central Ohio to ensure we will have a highly-qualified, highly-motivated workforce when we open late this year,” Patel said.

“We think this approach – involving both private and public institutions of higher learning and taking advantage of COWIC’s relationships with the city of Columbus, the state of Ohio and Franklin County and surrounding counties – is not only innovative, but will allow us to cast the broadest net possible in recruiting and training our employees to ensure we are as inclusive as possible as we interview potential employees in Central Ohio.”

“We’re certainly excited about being included in this innovative partnership,” said Mokie Steiskal, Associate Dean, Career and Technical Programs at Columbus State. “Columbus State’s Hospitality Management was formed in 1966 with about a dozen students. Today we have more than 700. It’s not uncommon for industry to call on us. As an accredited

program with the American Culinary Federation, we have plenty to offer. In this case, we will determine the synergy between our educational programs and those of Penn National. That will help make the training we provide invaluable for the many workers who will be hired here in Central Ohio. Combined - those will be the 'ingredients' for a top-quality food service staff at the Hollywood Columbus Casino."

Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., Central Ohio Technical College President, said the school's core mission "is to meet the needs of employers in the region. With an emerging workforce of more than 2,000, the partnership between Hollywood Casino Columbus and COTC makes sense and has incredible potential for the economic development of Central Ohio. We feel privileged to have been selected as part of this team and are excited for the college to have an integral role in this important workforce preparation."

Linda Hondros, President, Hondros College, said, "As an Ohio educational institution with 40 years of experience creating and developing career-focused programs, we are thrilled that graduates of Hondros College's Ohio Casino Training courses will fill the new jobs created by our partner Penn National and will play a key role in the casino's success."

"We are so excited to be part of this collaboration," said Suzanne Coleman-Tolbert, President and CEO of the Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation. "This is precisely the type of public-private partnership that will support economic development in central Ohio and change lives and communities in the process. These aren't just new jobs, they are the start of new careers and new options for those looking for work in Franklin County. This innovative partnership will help close skills gaps and create strong, tangible opportunities for COWIC's customers. We look forward to working together with Columbus State, Hondros, Central Ohio Technical College, and Hollywood Casino Columbus as we prepare our local workforce for Columbus' newest entertainment and employment destination."

Patel said all of the organizations involved in recruitment and training have agreed to place special emphasis on identifying potential employees who live on Columbus' West Side.

"Assisting the residents and businesses on the West Side in recovering from the severe economic conditions they have faced has always been an important part of our planning for Hollywood Casino Columbus," Patel said. "We want to make sure we include as many qualified West Side residents as possible as we reach out to Central Ohio to fill the 2,000 jobs we are in the process of creating."

Current plans call for the casino to begin the bulk of its recruitment in the spring, with hiring and training to take place over the summer. Qualifications for casino jobs vary depending on the position, but all casino employees will be required to be 21 years old, be non-smokers and be able to pass standard drug tests. Job openings will be posted online, and anyone interested in applying for a casino position can register now at www.hollywoodcasinocolumbus.com/careers to be notified as new positions are posted.

ABOUT HOLLYWOOD CASINO COLUMBUS

Hollywood Casino Columbus, located at Georgesville Road and West Broad Street on Columbus' West Side, is scheduled to open late in 2012. The \$400 million, 300,000-square-foot facility will open with 3,000 slot machines, 70 table games and a poker room. Amenities include the Final Cut Steakhouse, Epic Buffet, a sports lounge, food court and entertainment venue, with both structured and surface parking. The casino will initially employ approximately 2,000.

ABOUT CENTRAL OHIO TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Central Ohio Technical College is a fully-accredited, public college dedicated to providing high quality, accessible programs of technical education in response to current and emerging employment needs. Through the Workforce Development Innovation Center (WDIC), COTC offers customized training for college credit and not-for-college credit, including short term certificates. Recently celebrating 40 years of serving the region, COTC offers more than 40 associate degree and certificate programs to a growing and diverse student population. COTC operates full-service campus locations in Newark, Coshocton, Knox and Pataskala.

ABOUT COLUMBUS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Columbus State Community College has been dedicated to meeting the educational needs of its community for nearly a half century. The college has grown from an initial enrollment of 67 students in 1963 to more than 30,000 students today. Columbus State's Career and Technical Programs Division offers two-year degree programs in more than 55 areas of business, health, public service, human service and engineering technologies. Students can also take the first two years of a bachelor's degree through the college's Arts and Sciences Division, and then transfer to four-year institutions such as Ohio State University, Ohio University, Capital University and Franklin University. In all, there are more than 200 associate degree and certificate programs available. In addition to the main campus in downtown Columbus, Columbus State operates a Delaware Campus that opened in the autumn of 2010. The college also has nine suburban centers in the neighborhoods of Dublin, Gahanna, Westerville, Groveport, Marysville, Delaware, Grove City, Plain City, Southeast Columbus, and in Southwest Columbus at Bolton Field.

ABOUT HONDROS COLLEGE

For more than 40 years, Westerville, Ohio based Hondros College has been educating individuals who want to improve their lives by finding, entering and succeeding in a new career. From certificate programs, to associates degrees, to a bachelor degree in nursing; Hondros College offers a variety of programs to prepare students for occupations that offer stability, flexibility, independence and financial reward. Hondros College is fully accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools. Its seven Ohio locations provide the highly focused education needed to succeed in a broad range of careers in real estate, appraisal, home inspection, mortgage, insurance, title insurance, securities, personal training, tax preparation and nursing. Hondros College also offers a nationally-recognized curriculum of online classes in many disciplines. For a complete list of career offerings or more information on Hondros College, visit www.hondros.edu.

About COWIC

COWIC is the premiere employment services provider and One-Stop career center for job seekers and businesses in Franklin County. In the Work Place Central One-Stop, Franklin County job seekers can access training opportunities, one-on-one career consulting, work readiness workshops and a host of resources including a print center, Internet-ready computers, fax machines, and telephones to complete their job search. COWIC also serves Franklin County's business community providing pre-screening and talent recruitment, job matching, tax and wage incentive guidance, and rapid lay-off aversion services. In partnership with the City of Columbus, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, COWIC has provided services to more than 60,000 central Ohioans since 2007. The One-Stop is located in the Jerry Hammond Center at 1111 E. Broad Street in Columbus. For more information on COWIC's training and employment services, go to www.cowic.org.

